

Eileen S. Stommes
Deputy Administrator
USDA-AMS-TM-NOP
Room 4007-South
Ag Stop 0275
P.O. Box 96456
Washington, DC 2009-6456

Dear Ms. Stommes,

I am responding to Docket Number: TMD-94-00-2, involving the USDA's National Organic Program. I VERY STRONGLY oppose the inclusion of genetically engineered and irradiated foods in the definition of organic, as well as food fertilized with sewage sludge. I am sure you are well aware that organic agriculture standards are currently strict for many valid reasons. Aside from being superior in nutritive value and taste than conventionally grown produce, organic agricultural practices build and maintain the integrity of the soil, which has to remain fertile and productive for many years to come if people are going to be fed, and does not pollute the air and water. Consuming irradiated, genetically engineered, and/or sewage treated food contains harmful, if not toxic residues which accumulate in the body and cause dis-ease (not to mention the accumulation of toxins in the soil, air and water, reaching every part of the food chain). There is an over abundance of evidence that these measures are completely unnecessary to produce healthful food for people and the planet. That is what Organic Agriculture is all about, isn't it- producing nutritious food that is not harmful to the environment? There is great potential in the USDA's National Organic Program, but only if the current standards are not watered down. Please see to it that genetically engineerd and irradiated food, as well as food fertilized with sewage sludge are NOT included in the definition of Organic within the USDA's proposed National Organic Program. Thank You.

Sincerely,